

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claims 15-18 (Cancelled)

Claims 19-22 (Cancelled)

23. (New) An apparatus including an array of pixel cells for a light valve, the apparatus comprising:

an array of pixel cells arranged in a checkerboard pattern having a first set of squares alternating with a second set of squares, such that pixel cells in the first set of squares are diagonally adjacent pixel cells in the second set of squares, diagonally adjacent pixel cells having a gap formed therebetween, the gap including a first edge defined by a pixel cell from the first set of squares and a second edge defined by a pixel cell from the second set of squares, the first and second edges being parallel; and

dielectric spacer structures intervening in the gaps between the first set of squares and the second set of squares, the dielectric spacer structures being approximately 0.05 $\mu$ m thick.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, and wherein the dielectric spacer structures comprise silicon oxide.

25. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, and wherein the dielectric spacer structures comprise silicon nitride.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, and wherein the dielectric spacer structures comprise a low-k dielectric material selected from the group consisting of fluorosilicate glass, nanoporous silica, and organic polymers.

27. (New) An apparatus including an array of pixel cells for a light valve, the apparatus comprising:

an array of pixel cells arranged in a checkerboard pattern having a first set of squares alternating with a second set of squares, such that pixel cells in the first set of squares are diagonally adjacent pixel cells in the second set of squares, diagonally adjacent pixel cells having a gap formed therebetween, the gap including a first edge defined by a pixel cell from the first set of squares and a second edge defined by a pixel cell from the second set of squares, the first and second edges being parallel; and

dielectric spacer structures intervening in the gaps between the first set of squares and the second set of squares, the dielectric spacer structures having a lower portion and a curved upper portion.

28. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, and wherein the lower portion is approximately 0.05 $\mu$ m thick.